

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



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### **Introduction**

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

**Prelude**

**Sun Coe**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Altar Guild: **Janice Schettini**

Coffee Fellowship: **Janet Cassidy**

Communion Server: **Jeff Brandt**

Lector: **Craig Gropper**

TMT: **Renee Brandt**

Usher: **David Haxton**

Happy Birthday!



**Sadie Dillard – April 29**  
**Matilde Coleman – May 4**

**Anthem Chorale**



# Children's Message

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

***You May Stand or Sit***

***Congregational responses are in bold***

In the name of the Father, and the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness, and  
grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of  
God and one another.

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things we have done  
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you,  
and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you  
in newness of life through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister of the  
church of Christ, and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you the  
entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.****

All Who Are Thirsty

**All who are thirsty, all who are weak  
Just come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the stream of life  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
In the waves of His mercy  
As deep cries out to deep**

**Come Lord Jesus come,  
Come Lord Jesus come,  
Come Lord Jesus come,  
Come Lord Jesus come**

**All who are thirsty, all who are weak  
Just come to the fountain  
Dip your heart in the stream of life  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
In the waves of His mercy  
As deep cries out to deep**

**Come Lord Jesus come,  
Come Lord Jesus come,  
Come Lord Jesus come,  
Come Lord Jesus come**

*Text and music: Benton Brown and Glenn Robertson*

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**Greeting**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you.**

**And also with you.**

**Kyrie Eleison**

*(by Mark Anzelon)*

**Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy.**

**Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy.**

*By Mark Anzelon (ASCAP) © 2024*

**Hymn of Praise (Glory to God)**

*(Mark Anzelon)*

**Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to God's people on earth;  
Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Lord most high,  
You alone are the Lord, God almighty;  
For you alone are the Lord most high,  
You alone are the Lord, God almighty.**



**Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to God's people on earth;  
Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to God's people on earth,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

*By Mark Anzelon (ASCAP) © 2024*

**Prayer of the Day (in unison)**

**O God, you give us your Son  
as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.  
Nourish our life in his resurrection,  
that we may bear the fruit of love and know  
the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **First Reading:**

### ***Acts 8:26-40***

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)

<sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

<sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”

<sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the

prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”

<sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**  
***Psalm 22:25-31***

***Let us pray this psalm responsively***

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!  
May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## **Second Reading:**

### ***1 John 4:7-21***

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen

God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in

God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they



have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia

*(by Mark Anzelon)*

**Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Allelu-u-ia!**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life,  
Allelu-u-ia!**

**Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Allelu-u-ia!**

*By Mark Anzelon (ASCAP) © 2024*

## **Gospel:**

The Gospel according to  
John the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much

fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

***Pastor Rick Hall***



**Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks**

**#671 (WOV)**

**Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
He is the king of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth;  
Jesus has died and has risen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Savior.**

**Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

*Text and Music: Donald Fishel, ©1995 Augsburg Press*

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended  
into heaven, he is seated  
at the right hand of the Father, and  
will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection  
of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love  
has triumphed over fear,  
let us pray for the church, the world,  
and all those in need of good news.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**



Into your hands,  
most merciful God,  
we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your abiding love;  
through Jesus Christ,  
our resurrected and living Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The peace of Christ be with you always,  
**And also with you.***

Sharing the Peace:  
The peace of the Lord be with you,  
And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering for the mission  
of the church,  
including the care  
of those in need.

Shout to the Lord

#821 (ELW)

**My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.**

**My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am  
never cease to worship you.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise  
I have in you.**

*Text and music: Darlene Zschech, © 1999 Augsburg Press*

**Offering Prayer**

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
gave thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body,  
given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it  
for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen**

**Invitation to Communion**

**The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.**

*Red Wine and White Grape Juice are offered  
Gluten-free is available*

Lamb of God

(Mark Anzelon)

**Lamb of God who takes away  
the sin that bore our name;  
Who from the cross rained mercy,  
and through the grave, redeemed;  
and through the grave, redeemed.**

(Repeat)

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Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
oh, how bright the path  
grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

*Text: Elisa A. Hoffman, Music: Anthony J. Showalter © 1999 Augsburg Press*

**Blessing & Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**



**Blessing & Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

**Sun Coe**